

REMARKS

The Office Action has been carefully reviewed. No claim is allowed. Claims 41 and 43-50 presently appear in this application, with claims 49 and 50 newly added, and define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are hereby respectfully solicited.

Claims 41-48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor's, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 41 is amended to replace the recitation of hybridization with the recitation of "no more than ten amino acid changes from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, said changes being alternative conservative substitutions within the five groups of amino acid residues of Table B", as supported in the specification at page 26, lines 14-17 and page 28, lines 7-20. Furthermore, new claims 49 and 50 are directed to "no more than five" and "no more than three" amino acid changes, respectively, as supported at page 26, lines 15-17, of the instant specification. It is believed that the amendments to the claims obviate the written description rejection.

Appln. No. 09/403,861
Amd. dated December 17, 2003
Reply to Office Action of September 23, 2003

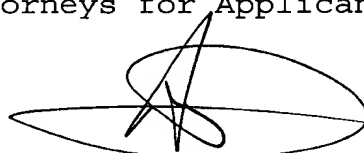
Reconsideration and allowance are therefore
respectfully requested.

In view of the above, the claims comply with 35 U.S.C.
§112 and define patentable subject matter warranting their
allowance. Favorable consideration and early allowance are
earnestly urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Allen C. Yun', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large loop and a crossbar.

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